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PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

S T A T E M E N T

OF THE

REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL

MR. RUI QUARTIN-SANTOS

BEFORE THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION

WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING

OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL

COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ON THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

New York, 9 August, 1990

MR. CHAIRMAN

WHEN THIS ORGANIZATION IS ABOUT TO COMMEMORATE THE 30 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL PEOPLES AND TERRITORIES, WHICH IS THE VERY BASIS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS SPECIAL COMMITTEE, ALLOW ME TO CONVEY THROUGH YOU, SIR, OUR SALUTATION AND TO EXPRESS, ONCE AGAIN, OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE REMARKABLE SERVICES IT HAS RENDERED TO THE CAUSE OF DECOLONIZATION, OF FREEDOM AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLES AND TERRITORIES.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION BY THE UNGA OF THE HISTORICAL RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) WILL MARK ALSO THE LAUNCHING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM, THE AIM OF WHICH IS TO ELIMINATE ALL REMNANTS OF COLONIALISM BY THE END OF THIS LAST DECADE OF THE PRESENT CENTURY AND MILLENIUM. IT IS NATURALLY EXPECTED THAT THIS COMMITTEEE WILL GIVE A VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THAT OBJECTIVE.

MR. CHAIRMAN

AS EVERYONE CERTAINLY WILL RECALL, PORTUGAL'S COLONIAL POLICY WAS, IN THE PAST, ONE OF THE MAIN TARGETS OF THIS COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES. FOR ALMOST TWO DECADES MY COUNTRY CHALLENGED THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER AND THE MAIN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDING DECOLONIZATION, BY REFUSING TO THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES UNDER ITS JURISDICTION THE EXERCISE OF THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE.

THOSE DAYS WERE GONE IN 1975. THE DECOLONIZATION OF ALL THOSE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, BUT ONE, WAS COMPLETED DURING THAT YEAR.

FROM THAT TIME PORTUGAL HAS COME TO THIS COMMITTEE TO SEEK ITS ASSISTANCE IN CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN ADMINISTERING POWER BOUND TO COMPLETE THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS OF ITS LAST COLONY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VERY PRINCIPLES AND RULES THAT HAVE GUIDED THE WORK OF THIS BODY SINCE ITS CREATION.

IN THE CASE OF EAST TIMOR, PORTUGAL IS ACTING NOT LIKE AN ADMINISTERING POWER RELUCTANT TO RELINQUISH ANY HYPOTHETICAL AND ANACHRONISTIC COLONIAL RULE, BUT INSTEAD STRIVING TO ENSURE TO ITS PEOPLE THE

FREE EXERCISE OF THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM AND SELF-DETERMINATION AGAINST THE ILLEGAL ACTION OF A NEIGHBOURING POWER, A FORMER COLONY ITSELF AND A MEMBER OF THIS SPECIAL COMMITTEE AS WELL.

WHEN WE ADDRESS YOU IN THIS CAPACITY WE ARE NOT REFLECTING ANY BACKWARD AMBITION OF COLONIAL DOMINATION, BUT OUR FIRM COMMITMENT TO BRING ABOUT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MORAL, LEGAL AND HISTORICAL IMPERATIVES, A JUST SOLUTION TO THIS QUESTION THAT WILL TAKE DULY INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE EAST-TIMORESE. AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE ARE NOT ENGAGED IN ANY KIND OF DISPUTE REGARDING THE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TERRITORY OF EAST TIMOR, NOR ARE WE ATTEMPTING TO "PUT BACK THE CLOCK OF HISTORY". PORTUGUESE COLONIAL RULE ON EAST TIMOR IS OVER, BUT IT IS ALSO OUR DUTY TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO UPHOLD THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREDOMS OF ITS PEOPLE AND TO SPEAK OUT IN FAVOUR OF ITS IDENTITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

MR. CHAIRMAN

THE ILLEGAL "STATUS QUO" IN EAST TIMOR HAS BEEN PRESENTED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS AS A "FAIT ACCOMPLI". THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ATTEMPTS TO RENDER THIS "FAIT

ACCOMPLI" MORE PALATABLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

a) AT FIRST, IT WAS ARGUED THAT THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN EAST TIMOR HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND CHAOS FROM SPREADING ALL OVER THE TERRITORY, DUE TO ITS "ABANDONMENT" BY THE PORTUGUESE COLONIAL AUTHORITIES. AS OUR FOREIGN MINISTER SAID BEFORE THE PLENARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PORTUGAL DOES NOT REJECT ITS SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES WHICH HAVE AFFECTED THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION OF EAST TIMOR. WE MUST, NEVERTHELESS, RECOGNIZE THAT THE AFORESAID REASON CANNOT JUSTIFY A PURE AND SIMPLE MILITARY CONQUEST, HOWEVER DISGUISED. IF A FIRE ERUPTS AT MY NEIGHBOUR'S HOME, IT IS ADMITTED, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT I ENTER HIS PLACE TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE, THUS PREVENTING IR FROM SPREADING TO MY HOME. BUT ONCE THE FIRE IS OVER NOBODY WOULD MAINTAIN THAT I WOULD HAVE THEREBY THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN HIS PLACE FOREVER, REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT IT. IN THE CASE UNDER CONSIDERATION, WE HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THE "FIRE" WAS A MERE PRETEXT.

b) THE OCCUPATION'S LEGITIMACY WAS THEN TO BE JUSTIFIED ON THE BASIS OF AN "ACT OF FREE CHOICE" CONSISTING OF A DECISION TAKEN BY A "PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY" (COMPOSED OF 37 HAND PICKED MEMBERS) TO

ADDRESS A "PETITION" TO THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES ASKING FOR EAST TIMOR TO BE INTEGRATED WITH THE REPUBLIC. THIS "ACT OF FREE CHOICE", HOWEVER, WAS NEVER RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH TOOK NO PART IN THE PROCESS AND HAVE REAFFIRMED THE RIGHT OF THE EAST-TIMORESE TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARE SELF-EXPLANATORY IN THIS REGARD.

c) IT HAS ALSO BEEN ARGUED THAT PROGRESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION WERE BROUGHT IN AS A RESULT OF THIS NEW RULE, IN CONTRAST WITH THE NEGLECT AND BACKWARDNESS THAT WERE THE PATTERN OF THE PREVIOUS COLONIAL DAYS. ROADS, BRIDGES, SCHOOLS, NEW BUILDINGS AND OTHER MATERIAL IMPROVEMENTES WOULD BE THERE TO DEMONSTRATE THE RIGHTEOUNESS OF A POLICY DEVISED TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL PEOPLE'S LIVING CONDITIONS AND TO BRING THEM TO THE MODERN WORLD.

WE ARE NOT CERTAINLY HERE TO DEFEND PORTUGUESE COLONIAL RULE IN EAST TIMOR. IT BELONGS TO THE PAST AND IT WILL BE JUDGED BY HISTORY. WE WOULD BE AMONG THE FIRST TO REJOYCE AT ALL THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN AS MUCH THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED. BUT WE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY, UP TILL VERY RECENTLY, THE TERRITORY WAS VIRTUALLY CLOSED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN ESCORTED VISITORS. BUT TRAVELING RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IMPOSED IN

THE AEREA WHERE TWO-THIRDS OF THE POPULATION LIVES. THOSE BENEFITS ARE REGRETTABLY, THEREFORE, TO BE SEEN BY VERY FEW PEOPLE ONLY. AND WE WONDER ALSO, WITH SO IMPRESSIVE A RECORD OF PROGRESS, WHY THE FREE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IS TO BE FEARED. IT WOULD CERTAINLY COMFORT INDONESIA'S STANCE ON THE QUESTION. INTEGRATION WOULD THEN BE THE RESULT OF THE GENUINE WILL OF THE EAST-TIMORESE, AND THE RELEVANT PRINCIPLES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THIS ORGANIZATION WOULD BE DULY OBSERVED.

d) WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, SINCE THE ATTEMPTED INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR, THAT THE ARMED RESISTANCE CONFRONTING IT WAS LIMITED TO AN HANDFUL OF INDIVIDUALS (TWO OR THREE HUNDREDS, AT THE UTMOST), DEPRIVED OF POPULAR SUPPORT, FORCED TO RESORT TO ROBBERY AND TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE MOUNTAINS. ITS FINAL LIQUIDATION HAS BEEN PROMISED FOR YEARS. BUT HOW COME THAT SUCH A MODERN AND POWERFUL ARMY HAS BEEN SO FAR UNABLE TO FULFIL THAT PROMISE? HOW TO EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT - IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY MR. MARIO CARRASCALÃO, THE INDONESIAN APPOINTED GOVERNOR - MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE, FROM 1975 TO 1985, WOULD HAVE PERISHED AS A RESULT OF THE VIOLENCE, FAMINE AND DISEASE THAT SPREAD ALL OVER THE COUNTRY? ACCORDING ALSO TO MR. CARRASCALÃO, ABOUT 80% OF THE EAST-TIMORESE VILLAGES WERE RELOCATED FOR SECURITY

REASONS.THE MILITARY CONFLICT HAS BEEN THUS FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN WHAT WE WERE LEAD TO BELIEVE.

IT IS ALSO INCONSISTENT WITH THAT DESCRIPTION THAT, INSTEAD OF VANISHING, OPPOSITION ACTIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT RECENTLY BY YOUNGSTERS, WHO HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING BUT THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION. THIS WAS QUITE EVIDENT IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED DURING HIS HOLLYNESS THE POPE'S VISIT TO THE TERRITORY, LAST OCTOBER, AND DURING THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO DJACARTA IN DILI, IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

HIGHLIGTS OF AN INTERESTING REPORT ON EAST-TIMOR PREPARED BY A TEAM OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS BELONGING TO A PRESTIGIOUS INDONESIAN UNIVERSITARY INSTITUTION WERE PUBLISHED IN THE DJACARTA'S PAPER "KAMPAS",ON 17 APRIL. A PARTIAL REPRODUCTION OF THAT REPORT HAS BEEN ALSO AVAILABLE. IT CONVEYS A DISTURBING PICTURE OF THE SITUATION THEREIN PREVAILING, REFERRING TO THE CONTINUANCE OF A "WAR SITUATION" AND OF A "WAR ECONOMY". EAST TIMORESE SOCIETY IS SAID TO BE STILL IN A "TRAUMA" AND THAT "PHYSICAL PROGRESS HAS FAILED TO SOLVE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION WHICH CAUSED QUITE HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE".

THE TEAM IS ALSO QUOTED AS HAVING POINTED OUT THAT "WHEREAS THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT INTEGRATION HAS RESOLVED THE MATTER OF DECOLONIZATION, EAST TIMORESE SOCIETY DOES NOT SEE IT IN THAT LIGHT".

OTHER PARTS OF THE REPORT DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS AS: THE IMPACT OF A MASSIVE INFLUX OF SETTLERS MOVING IN FROM ALL PARTS OF INDONESIA; THE LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE; AN " OVERDOSE OF MILITARY PRESENCE ", STRESSING ITS DOMINATING ROLE BOTH ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND ON THE ECONOMY; THE LACK OF CREDIBILITY OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE FEELING THAT THE PEOPLE ARE NOW "BEING COLONIZED" THROUGH NEW FORMS AND STRUCTURES.

A SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION CALLS FOR THE END OF THE SO CALLED " RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM " ALLOWING PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL VILLAGES. THIS CHALLENGES ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE ANTI-GUERRILLA WARFARE, WHOSE IMPORTANCE COULD ALREADY BE EVALUATED FROM THE FIGURE I REFERRED TO ABOVE, QUOTING MR. CARRASCÃO POINTING OUT THAT 80% OF THE VILLAGES HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR ORIGINAL SITES.

MR. CHAIRMAN

AFTER THE LONG AWAITED PROCLAMATION OF NAMIBIA AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE - NOW A WELCOMED MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS - EAST TIMOR IS THE MOST POPULOUS OF ALL

TERRITORIES WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND SECOND ONLY TO WEST SAHARA IN WHAT REGARDS GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENSION. ALMOST HALF OF THE ONE AND A HALF MILLION OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES INHABITANTS LIVES IN EAST TIMOR.

NOW, THAT A DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM IS ABOUT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AT ITS NEXT ORDINARY SESSION, WE DO THINK THIS IS A PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATED MOMENT TO REAFFIRM PORTUGAL'S READINESS TO EXTEND TO THIS BODY ALL ITS POSSIBLE COOPERATION TO REACH, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, A SETTLEMENT TO THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR THAT WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES AND FUNDAMENTAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THAT ARE THE CORNERSTONE OF THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE AND THE REASON OF ITS VERY EXISTENCE. WE WILLINGLY PARTICIPATED IN ONE OF THE FIRST INITIATIVES ORGANIZED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION, THE SEMINAR HELD IN VANUATU DEDICATED TO THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS FACED BY SMALL NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES OF THE PACIFIC. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A CLOSER APPROACH AND A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THOSE TERRITORIES.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECALL, IN THIS REGARD, MR. CHAIRMAN, YOUR OPENING STATEMENT FOR THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE, ON AUGUST FIRST WHEN YOU SAID: "ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES ARE SMALL IN SIZE AND POPULATION, WITH LIMITED RESOURCES, WE REAFFIRM THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION REMAIN FULLY APPLICABLE TO THEM".

WE DO FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT EAST TIMOR, IN ITS VERY PARTICULAR SITUATION, CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS CASES EVER TO CHALLENGE THE APPLICATION OF THOSE PRINCIPLES.

PORTUGAL WAS ONE THE CO-SPONSORS OF UNGA RESOLUTION 37/30 WHICH ENTRUSTED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL A MANDATE TO INITIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, AIMING AT EXPLORING AVENUES FOR ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM. WE HAVE IN FACT, ALWAYS BELIEVED - AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE - THAT ONLY THROUGH DIALOGUE CAN CONFIDENCE BE BUILT; POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS THOROUGHLY STUDIED AND ANALYZED, TAKING DULY INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS INVOLVED; AND FINALLY, DIFFERENCES BE BRIDGED. ONLY THROUGH DIALOGUE, INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION, CAN THE MUCH NEEDED SETTLEMENT TO THIS QUESTION BE ACHIEVED, BRINGING PEACE AND JUSTICE TO THE EAST TIMORESE AND ALLOWING THEIR LAND TO RETURN TO NORMALCY AND STABLE PROGRESS.

SINCE THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 37/30 WE HAVE THEREFORE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN A DILIGENT AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER, IN THE PATIENT AND RELENTLESS EFFORT

THAT HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS COLLABORATORS IN ORDER TO FULFIL HIS MANDATE .

PORTUGAL WILL, AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE, HITHERTO, COOPERATE, WITH THESE EFFORTS IN VIEW OF FINDING REASONABLE SOLUTIONS THAT MAY OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES THAT HAVE, SO FAR, PREVENTED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TO BE ACHIEVED TOWARDS A SUBSTANTIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR, WITH FULL RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS AND THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF ITS PEOPLE.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT WE ARE TAKING PART IN THE TALKS THAT, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, HAVE BEEN HELD WITH THE INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES AIMING AT REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, MODALITIES AND TIMING THAT WILL EVENTUALLY ALLOW A VISIT BY A PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO EAST TIMOR TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MY DELEGATION HAD ALREADY THE OPPORTUNITY, LAST YEAR, TO EXPRESS MORE AT LENGTH ITS VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND I WILL NOT, THEREFORE, DWELL ON IT NOW. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT PORTUGAL WILL DO ITS UTMOST - WITH GOOD FAITH AND FLEXIBILITY, BUT ALSO WITH DUE REGARD WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITIES - TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THESE TALKS. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED AND WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT THE LAST REMAINING DIFFERENCES WILL RAPIDLY BE OVERCOME THUS ALLOWING THE VISIT TO TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MAY I ADD THAT WE EXPECT THE

SAME SPIRIT TO PREVAIL ON THE PART OF INDONESIA.

AS THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL SAID LAST YEAR IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE UNGA, WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE SUCCESS OF THESE TALKS, THEIR LIMITED SCOPE NOTWITHSTANDING, WOULD CERTAINLY BE HELPFUL IN CREATING A GOOD ATMOSPHERE FOR THEIR RESUMPTION ON THE VERY SUBSTANCE OF THE QUESTION.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

IT WOULD BE INDEED ALSO A VERY POSITIVE FACTOR TO OUR ENDEAVORS AND A POWERFUL CONTRIBUTION TO CREATE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE FOR DIALOGUE IF THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND BASIC FREEDOMS IN EAST TIMOR WOULD HAVE SHOWN CLEAR SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.

UNFORTUNATELY THAT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE CASE. I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION IN THIS REGARD TO PARAGRAPHS 32 TO 34 OF THE WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THIS QUESTION - (DOC. A/AC. 109/1037).

BOTH THE "COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE FOR 1989, INDONESIA " PUBLISHED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND THE REPORT ISSUED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENTITLED " EAST TIMOR SHORT TERM AND ILL TREATMENT " REFER THAT SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS REMAINED. NUMEROUS DETENTIONS, TEMPORARY DISAPPEARANCES OF PEOPLE, TORTURES AND ILL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, ARE SAID THERE

TO CONTINUE. WORST OF ALL, BOTH REPORTS MENTION THAT MORE THAN TWENTY CIVILIANS (THE U.S. REPORT SAYS " TWO DOZENS OR MORE ") WERE KILLED BY THE MILITARIES IN 1989. WE STRONGLY APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA TO PUT AN END TO SUCH APPALLING PRACTICES AND TO INVESTIGATE AND PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. AN ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR AND TENSION IS SAID TO BE DEVELOPING AMONG THE CIVIL POPULATION.

IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES OF THE HRC ADOPTED, FEW WEEKS AFTER THIS SPECIAL COMMITTEE MET LAST YEAR ON THIS QUESTION, A NEW RESOLUTION ON THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR THAT, "INTER ALIA", REGRETS THAT MORE ARRESTS, TORTURE AND SUMMARY EXECUTIONS HAD ALLEGEDLY TAKEN PLACE IN THE TERRITORY SINCE THE END OF 1988 AND APPEALS TO THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW REPRESENTATIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS TO VISIT IT.

A MAJOR FACT IN THE LIFE OF EAST TIMOR WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE SHORT VISIT PAID TO IT LAST OCTOBER, BY POPE JOHN PAUL II, WHICH HAS PLACED THE TERRITORY AND THE SITUATION THEREIN PREVAILING UNDER THE SPOTLIGHTS OF WORLD ATTENTION. THE INCIDENTS THAT THEN OCCURRED AND THE ENSUING HARSH ACTION UNDERTAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES PROMPTED THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO ADOPT A NEW RESOLUTION ON THIS QUESTION HIGHLY CRITICAL OF

INDONESIA'S POLICY TOWARDS EAST TIMOR. THE DEMONSTRATIONS THAT FOR SEVERAL DAYS TOOK PLACE IN DILI ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO DJAKARTA, IN MID JANUARY, ILLUSTRATED AGAIN THE UNREST AND TENSION THAT SEEM TO PREVAIL SPECIALLY AMONG THE YOUNGSTERS.

SEVERAL COUNTRIES, HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT PARLIAMENTS, SCHOLARS AND JOURNALISTS, AMONG OTHERS, HAVE CONTINUED TO VOICE CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY. I WOULD REFER ONLY SPECIFICALLY TO THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, BEFORE THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE UNGA, LAST YEAR, AND BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S ANNUAL MEETING IN GENEVA.

INFORMATION, COMING RECENTLY FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES AND QUARTERS, INDICATE THAT A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN INDONESIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN ALLEGEDLY DETECTED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MARCH. MILITARY CLASHES IN DIFFERENT PLACES HAVE BEEN REPORTED LATELY. THIS IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING IN VIEW OF THE TALKS I REFERRED TO ABOVE THAT ARE IN PROGRESS CONCERNING THE ENVISAGED VISIT OF A PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE TERRITORY. IF THAT IS CONFIRMED IT WILL HAVE A VERY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT TO THE PURPOSES ASSIGNED TO THE VISIT AND WILL, EVENTUALLY, PUT IN JEOPARDY ITS ACCOMPLISHMENT.

ALL THIS REINFORCES THE BELIEF THAT THE RETURN TO

NORMALCY IN THE TERRITORY AND THE RESPECT FOR THE ELEMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS DEPEND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE. AND PEACE WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT A SETTLEMENT THAT WILL TAKE DULY INTO ACCOUNT THE RIGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

ALSO IN YOUR STATEMENT OF AUGUST FIRST, YOU SAID THAT: " THE COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE VIGOROUS IN BRINGING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTERING POWERS THE CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF SEVERAL TERRITORIES REGARDING THE PLUNDERING OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES, IN PARTICULAR MARINE RESOURCES, AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION III OF ANNEX I OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA WHICH STATES THAT:

'IN THE CASE OF A TERRITORY WHOSE PEOPLE HAVE NOT ATTAINED FULL INDEPENDENCE OR OTHER SELF-GOVERNING STATUS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, OR A TERRITORY UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION, PROVISIONS CONCERNING RIGHTS AND INTERESTS UNDER THE CONVENTION SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THEIR WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT ".

IN THIS CONNECTION I WOULD LIKE TO CALL THIS COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION TO DOCUMENTS A/45/57 AND A/45/60 OF 14 AND 18 DECEMBER 1989, RESPECTIVELY, CONCERNING THE

SIGNING OF A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "ZONE OF COOPERATION" IN THE MARITIME AREA EXISTING BETWEEN EAST TIMOR AND NORTHERN AUSTRALIA, KNOWN AS THE "TIMOR GAP".

MY DELEGATION REAFFIRMS PORTUGAL'S POSITION ON THAT ACTION, THAT CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS AND BLATANT BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN CONTEMPT NAMELY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR, SPECIALLY ITS PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES, AND RESTATES THAT IT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RESORT TO ANY LEGAL MEANS IT MAY SEEM APPROPRIATE TO UPHOLD THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE EAST TIMORESE.

IN CONCLUDING, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD MAKE AGAIN VERY CLEAR THAT PORTUGAL ON ITS PART WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO FIND THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND DIALOGUE A JUST, COMPREHENSIVE AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT OF EAST TIMOR. WE WILL CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL WITH AN OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, AND WE REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED IN ASSISTING HIM IN HIS ENDEAVORS IN ORDER TO MAKE POSSIBLE, IN THE NEAREST POSSIBLE FUTURE, THE ATTAINMENT OF THAT OBJECTIVE.